

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 02146 212001Z

61

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 FCC-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 RSC-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DRC-01

/049 W

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R 211706Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7146

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMCONSUL BELIZE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 2146

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, XK, HO

SUBJECT: TRANSCARIBBEAN CABLE

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 1757; (B) STATE 93601; (C) SAN SALVADOR 1852

1. COL. ENRIQUE WILDT, GOH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TOLD COMATT MAY 20 THAT HE IS PLANNING TRIP THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS LANDING SUBJECT CABLE IN HONDURAS WITH ATT OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK. HE IS VERY INTERESTED IN HAVING TERMINAL LOCATED IN HONDURAS, BOTH FOR FINANCIAL AND PRESTIGE REASONS, AND STATED THAT BOTH COSTA RICA AND NICARAGUA FAVOR THE HONDURAN POSITION AS INVOLVING LESS COST WITH REFERENCE TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM THAN WOULD LOCATING THE TERMINUS IN MORE DISTANT GUATEMALA.

2. WILDT STATED THAT LANDING THE CABLE IN GUATEMALA WOULD BE MORE COSTLY AS WATER DEPTHS OFF GUATEMALAN COAST INSUFFICIENT, REQUIRING DREDGING; LANDING NEAR PUERTO CORTES INVOLVES NO SUCH WORK AS DEPTHS MORE THAN SUFFICIENT. HE SAID THAT A TEAM FROM
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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 02146 212001Z

ATT WAS IN GUATEMALA LAST WEEK STUDYING THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS

OF LANDING THE CABLE THERE; A SIMILAR STUDY WAS DONE ON HONDURAS TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO WHICH IS STILL CONSIDERED VALID.

3. WILDT WAS UNCERTAIN WHEN A FINAL DECISION WOULD BE MADE ON THE LOCATION OF THE C.A. TERMINUS BUT VENTURED THAT A DECISION MIGHT COME BY AUGUST. HE TENDED TO DISMISS ANY SALVADORAN "RISK" IN HAVING THE CABLE LANDED IN HONDURAS AS THE SYSTEM WOULD BE OPERATED JOINTLY BY ALL C.A. COUNTRIES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF COMTELCA AND HONDURAS COULD EXERCISE NO EXCLUSIVE CONTROL.
SANCHEZ

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